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Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore Alumni (BPCA) E-Bulletin

May – Aug 2025



In this issue, we celebrate Heritage, Service, and Community together.
Here are the highlights:

-  **Honouring Our Founders** – A heartfelt tribute to the late Venerable M. M. Mahāweera Mahānāyaka Mahāthera and the late Venerable P. Gnānārāma Anunāyaka Mahāthera, with meaningful Memorial Day gatherings and a special Scholarship Award Ceremony.
-  **Piṇḍapāta Ceremony** – Alumni and students joining hands in the spirit of service through this cherished tradition.
-  **Global Connections** – Highlights from the 20th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration 2025, with Ven. P. Seelananda and our college representatives.
-  **Waso Robe Offering** – Learning the tradition of our Myanmar Buddhist community

If you or your fellow BPC alumni would like to share your story or contribute an article, we welcome your submissions! Please contact Sister Tyy Yn at tyyynquek@gmail.com.

May all be well, happy and peaceful!

The Editorial Team

BPCA Alumni Committee

30 Jalan Eunos, Singapore 419495

Memorial Day in MV

7 June 2025



Ven MM Mahāweera

Founder
Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)
Buddhist & Pali College of Singapore

Ven P Gnānārāma

Founding Principal
Buddhist & Pali College of Singapore

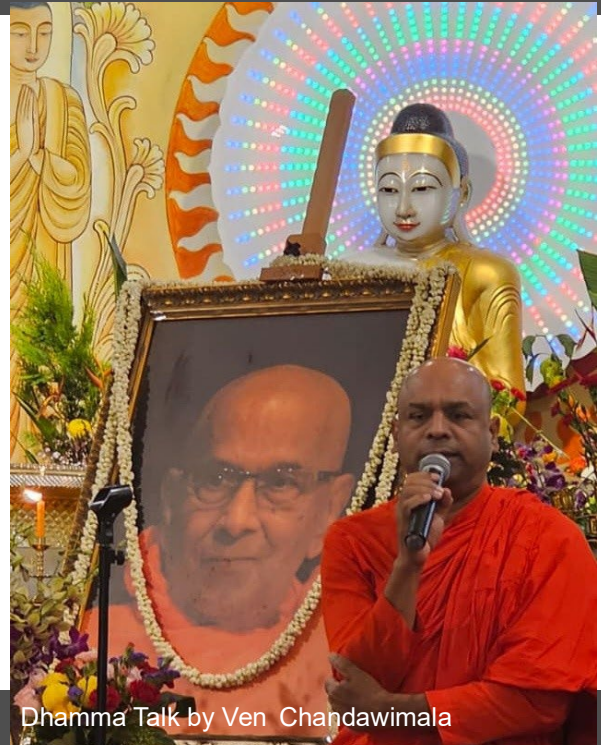
On 7 June 2025, the *Mahāsaṅgha* and lay community gathered at Mangala Vihara to commemorate Memorial Day, in honour of:

- 🇲🇲 The late Venerable M M Mahāweera Mahānāyaka Mahāthera
- 🇲🇲 The late Venerable P Gnānārāma Anunāyaka Mahāthera

We reflected on the invaluable contributions of both esteemed Venerables and renewed our collective aspiration to preserve and propagate the timeless teachings of the Buddha.



Welcome Address by Ven Cakkapala



Dhamma Talk by Ven Chandawimala



Offering of flowers by the *Mahāsangha*
Lighting of the lotus candles by Brother Jebsons Chia and Dr Lim Ah Swan



Offer of requisites to the
Mahāsaṅgha



Photo credits:
MV Facebook and Sis Tyy Yn

Memorial Scholarship Award Ceremony in BPU

17 June 2025



On 17 June 2025, the Buddhist and Pali University (BPU), Sri Lanka, hosted a Memorial Scholarship Award Ceremony in remembrance of both the late founder and founding principal of the Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore (BPC), whose vision and dedication left an enduring legacy in the field of Buddhist education in Singapore.

The scholarships, amounting to SGD 22,000, were contributed by the BPC Alumni Committee (BPCA) to BPU in 2024, as a gesture of gratitude for the support extended to students from Singapore over the years. These scholarships are intended to provide educational opportunities for both the monastic and lay communities in Sri Lanka, thereby continuing the spirit of mutual support and shared learning.



Photo credit: Bhante Suneetha

*Sabbadānaṃ dhammadānaṃ jināti,
Sabbarasaṃ dhammaraso jināti;
Sabbaratiraṃ dhammarati jināti,
Taṇhakkhayaṃ sabbadukkhaṃ jināti.*

The gift of the teaching surmounts all other gifts;
the taste of the teaching surmounts all other tastes;
the joy of the teaching surmounts all other joys;
the ending of craving surmounts all suffering.

Dhammapada 354
Translated by Bhikkhu Sujato



Seven of the thirteen scholarship recipients with members from:

- Faculty of Postgraduate Studies and External Examination Centre, BPU, Sri Lanka
- Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore
- Mangala Vihara, Singapore

The 20th United Nations Day of VESAK CELEBRATION 2025

@Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

6 - 8 May 2025

The event was attended by 1,350 international delegates from 85 countries and territories and about 1,500 domestic delegates, supported by 6,611 volunteers. Ven P. Seelananda led a team, comprising six representatives from MV and BPC, to attend this event from 5 – 9 May 2025.

Event Highlights:



- Plenary Discussion on the Main theme
- Candle-lighting Ceremony for World Peace
- Academic Conference
- Ceremony of Enshrinement of the Sacred Relics of the Buddha (National Treasures of India) and the Planting of 108 Bodhi Tree
- Buddhist Chanting for World Peace



Main Theme:

Solidarity and Tolerance for
Human Dignity: Buddhist
Insight for World Peace and
Sustainable Development

Candle-lighting Ceremony for World Peace



Academic Conference



-  Cultivating Inner Peace for World Peace
-  Mindful Healing: A Path to Reconciliation
-  Buddhist Compassion in Action:
Shared Responsibility for Human Development
-  Mindfulness in Education for a Compassionate and Sustainable Future
-  Fostering Unity: Collaborative Efforts for Global Harmony



Meeting friends and networking with new ones ...



Lanterns for World Peace at the Closing Ceremony

Sunworld Buddhist Cultural Complex, Ba Den Mountain, Tay Ninh Province



Grateful for the privilege to represent the Singapore delegates to plant a bodhi tree; one of the 108 bodhi trees to be planted on 8 June 2025



Ba Den Mountain, Tay Ninh Province

See the spectacular clouds on that afternoon!



Photo credit: Media Archives United Nations Day of Vesak 2025

Photo credit: Sis Sandra Koh

Piṇḍapāta Ceremony

9 August 2025

On Singapore's National Day, 9 August 2025, BPC alumni and students came together with great enthusiasm to volunteer at MV's *Piṇḍapāta* ceremony. They took on diverse roles - emceeing the event, driving invited monastic members, serving as *kappiyas* to assist the Bhantes with requisites received during the alms round, joining the *saṅghika dāna* team to offer refreshments and food, and coordinating crowd flow.

Thank you everyone, for contributing to a smooth and meaningful ceremony!



Piṇḍapāta

- placing morsels of food in an alms bowl



Sis Linda Sim



Significance:

Reciprocal relationship between the Sangha monastic and lay followers:

- The Sangha monastic provide spiritual guidance and advice to lay supporters
- The lay devotees support them by providing for their four requisites of robes, food, shelter and medicine.

For monastic members:

- Maintain focus on spiritual cultivation
- Help to develop egolessness and contentment

For lay devotees:

- Provides a convenient way to practise giving and cultivate generosity



Some of Our Volunteers



Photo credits: MV Facebook, Sis Gladys and Sis Tyy Yn

Waso Robe Offering Ceremony

13 July 2025

Information from Sister Jue Sandar Kyaw

Many would have heard of *Kaṭhina* Robe Offering, which happens at the end of a rainy retreat (*vassa*). **Waso Robe Offering**, on the other hand, is offered at the start of the *vassa*¹, according to the Myanmar tradition. In MV, the Waso Robe Offering Ceremony was held on 13 July 2025. Students from the General Arts Qualifying (GAQ) class and other BPC members were invited to join MV's Myanmar community to attend the ceremony.



Practice in Myanmar

- Before the retreat begins (around Waso Full Moon Day), devotees gather at monasteries to discuss and prepare for the event.
- They offer new robes (Waso-thingan) and other requisites such as medicine, alms food and monastery utilities.
- This offering is often done by families, communities, or even at the national level with the government organizing state robe offerings.

Significance

Similar to *Kaṭhina* Robe Offering, Waso Robe Offering is considered a great merit (*puñña-kamma*) because it is one of the four requisites for the *Saṅgha* monastics. It also supports their observance of the *Vassa* and strengthens the connection between the *Saṅgha* monastics and lay community.

¹ In Myanmar, the Buddhist rainy retreat (*Vassa*) is called Waso because it begins in the Myanmar month of Waso (around July).

Cultural Aspects in Myanmar

Many villages and towns organize Waso-thingan pwe (robe-offering ceremonies). Young men and women also carry Waso alms-bowls (thingan hnget pwe) to collect donations for robes, reflecting the participation of the community. It is thus seen as both a religious duty and a cultural festival in Myanmar Buddhist life.



In Myanmar, Waso (ဝါဆို) marks the beginning of the Vassa (Rainy Retreat, ဝါဆို). It is usually in the month of June to July.

One important tradition connected with this is the Waso robe offering (Waso-thingan pwe, ဝါဆိုသင်္ကန်းပွဲ), including offering of other requisites, to the monastics at the start of Vassa.



School Calendar



- 18 – 20 October : Diploma in Buddhism Examinations



- 15 November: Diploma in Buddhism (2026 Intake) – Preview at MV
- 22 November: Diploma in Buddhism (2026 Intake) – Preview at PMT